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Circumstances might arise of such an imperative nature, that Parliament would have no alternative, but sacrificing the people to the scruples of the Sovereign, or invading a second time the due order of succession. And even if in this dire extremity, the Monarch, by anticipation, should lay aside his scruples, we should then have to endure the mortification of beholding on the Throne, a Prince who had violated the vow which he solemnly called GOD to witness he would never cease to observe.

Under these circumstances, every man who has any regard for the Constitution, of which the two Houses form so important a part (which are in danger of being in abeyance); every man, who feels the least attachment to the Monarchy,—every man who feels gratitude to the House of BRUNSWICK for the peace and prosperity we have enjoyed under their sway,—must wish to see the State freed from so imminent a peril,—must wish to rescue the Sovereign by anticipation from the consequences which, if a remedy be not provided in time, may attach to his rash and extraordinary vow. We trust, therefore, the

Legislature will, while it is yet time, modify the Coronation Oath in such a way, that the most scrupulous King shall be unable to derive from it the slightest difficulty in assenting to the acts of the two Houses.

The Bill, as might have been easily anticipated by an attentive observer of "the signs of the times," was rejected. The majority was greater than had been anticipated:—

The majority in 1821, when the Bill was rejected by the House of Lords, was 89. The number of votes on that occasion, including proxies, was 279. On the present decision the number of votes was 398.

We deprecate Aggregate Meetings, whether weekly or monthly. We fear the intemperate language of a few individuals might be attributed to the body at large. We beseech them to preserve the same moderation which has lately marked their councils, and success must speedily attend their efforts to regain their indubitable privileges as men and citizens. Let them follow "the things which make for peace," and let their motto be "nil desperandum."

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

BELFAST NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

THE fourth yearly Meeting of this Society, was held on Thursday evening, the 26th May, when an address was read by the President, the Rev. THOS. D. HINCKS, of the Belfast Institution. This Society was formed by some young gentlemen, under the auspices of Dr. Jas. L. Drummond, Professor of Anatomy and Natural History, in the Belfast Institution, and has gone on gaining strength in each succeeding year. During the first year, the Meetings were held at the house of D. Drummond, and afterwards in the Manager's room at the Institution. They are now held in a room, rented by the Society, in the Commercial Buildings, which is fitted up in a suitable manner; and adjoining to which is another room, in which their collection is kept for the inspection of the Members and Visitors. At present the number of ordinary Members is about twenty, mostly young active men, ardent in the pursuit of some branch of Natural History. There are also a few visiting Members, who contribute to the funds, though they do not prepare papers. The meetings are held once a fortnight, and each ordinary Member in rotation reads a paper on Zoology, Botany, Mineralogy, or the Topography of Ireland. To illustrate the Natural History of Ireland, and to describe the animals, plants, and minerals, found in it, is the primary object, but the

greater number of the communications hitherto, have been rather compilations of interesting information, from various authors of credit. After the reading of the paper, it becomes the subject of discussion, each Member and Visitor being called on by the President in succession. Such Meetings have an evident tendency to improve the mind, and to form a taste for Natural History; and experience has proved that many, who begin with compiling, become valuable contributors of their own observations.—The President's address, contained a review of the papers read in the preceding Session, twenty-four in number. Five of these were on Mineralogy, three on Botany, four on Topography, and the remaining twelve on some branch of Zoology. Seven were immediately directed to the Natural History of Ireland, and consisted chiefly of original observations. The President also noticed the most remarkable information on each branch which had been communicated through other societies, or published works in the preceding year. In the course of his address, he read a correspondence, commenced with the American Geological Society, of which Professor Silliman is an active Member, through the exertions of Mr. James M'Adam, and gave an account of the addition already made to the Mineralogical collection, in consequence of this intercourse. Many other topics

were introduced, and the President concluded, with calling upon the Members to persevere. "Be not discouraged by the apparently increasing difficulties, in consequence of new arrangements, for they have been rendered in some degree unavoidable, by new discoveries. We should remark, as Mr. Vigors has observed, 'that groups distinctively characterized, and names judiciously given, and expressively conferred, however they may be augmented, will add to the luminousness, not to the confusion of science. And where is the true lover of nature among us, who would not rejoice in the augmentation of new genera and new names, even by hundreds, while new species, and new forms, as in the last few years, pour in upon us by thousands?' Go on to improve yourselves and your associates, by judicious selections of the observations of others; whilst you feel that you have not sufficient knowledge, or sufficient leisure for original investigations: but as your knowledge advances, direct your exertions more and more to a close examination of the productions of your own country, and to the improvement or application of them.— Useful as nomenclature is, never let Natural History degenerate in your hands into mere arrangement; and above all, never lose sight of that receipt, to look through Nature up to Nature's God. For in the language of Akenside—

'The men
Whom Nature's works can charm, with God
himself
Hold converse; grow familiar day by day
With his conceptions, act upon his plans,
And form to his, the relish of their souls.'"

On the conclusion of the Address, the Society proceeded to elect Officers for the succeeding year, and then separated with encouraging prospects of increasing usefulness.

BELFAST MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

The Belfast Mechanics' Institute seems to promise well. The Operatives continue to take a great interest in it; and there are already about 500 Members, which is a greater number than have come forward in Manchester. The objects of this Institution are; First, to collect a library, which shall be confined chiefly to works of practical utility on the arts and sciences; Secondly, to establish Lectures on such scientific subjects as may be useful to the working classes of the community, of which those on Mechanics and Chemistry are always to be considered the most important; Thirdly, to form a collection of models and apparatus; and, Fourthly, to establish a Scientific School for teaching arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, with some of their most important applications in the arts. The affairs of the Institute are to be managed by

twenty-five Directors, two-thirds of whom must be Operative Tradesmen; five Trustees appointed for life, are to take charge of the property of the Institute, for the benefit of the Members. A Prospectus of its plan and objects, is now in circulation; and a number of gentlemen have kindly undertaken to call on the wealthier part of the community, in order to obtain subscriptions to set it fairly on foot. These gentlemen, it is hoped, will meet with liberal encouragement in the Town and Neighbourhood.

The Mechanics have been very fortunate, beyond those of other places, in obtaining access to Lectures on Mechanics and Chemistry, at the very commencement of their operations. Through the kindness of Professor Stevelly, arrangements have been made, by which all the Members of the Institute, are entitled to attend his Lectures in the Belfast Academical Institution: and we are happy to state, that the Common Hall of that Seminary is crowded with pupils, from this important class of Society.

BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

In the last Number, when we noticed the examinations of the College Classes at the end of the Session, especially those for the General Certificate, for excelling at which Medals are given, we mentioned the subjects on which the candidates for these medals were examined, and gave specimens of the questions proposed, particularly in Mathematics. We now subjoin a few specimens of the Questions in Classics. The following were given to each candidate, to be answered in writing, after the usual *viva voce* examinations:—

ON HOMER.

How can you denominate the two parts of an Heroic Hexameter when divided by the Penthemimeral Cæsura?

Of what is a Pentameter line made up?

What different quantities does Homer

give to the first syllable of *Ἀπολλων*, and on what principle?

Who were the Homeridæ?

What are the different derivations of *ραψῳδος*?

How were the Books of the Iliad at first denominated?

At what period is it most probable that they were composed?

How does Herodotus differ from Homer in the story of Helen?

Who is said to have brought the poems of Homer to Sparta?

Who is said to have caused them to be recited at Athens, and when?

Why does not Homer use the term *βαρβαροι*, and what was the meaning of the word?

What was the partition of Peloponnesus among the Heraclidæ?

What person, not of that family, obtained a part, and what part?

[We regret that the questions on Longinus had to be omitted for want of room.]

ON LIVY.

WHAT is the difference between *est qui fecit*, and *idem est qui fecit*?

Si roges quæ sit sententia; or quæ est sententia. Which of these two is right, and what is the principle?

What determines the use of *ut* and *quod* in a sentence? Explain the use of *ut* after *timeo* and the like.

How do *nam* and *enim*, *verum* and *vero*, differ in their position in sentence? and where is *inquit* always placed?

The Latin formula for such expressions as the following: He is worthy to be loved, I sent one to tell?

Which of these forms is correct. Consequar si potero, or si potuero; occidam si potero, or si potuero, and on what principle?

Is Livy correct when he says, that on Tarquin's settling in Rome, they gave out his name to be L. Tarquinius Priscus: and give the reason for your opinion?

What was the change made by Numa in the Roman year—from whom copied, and with what alterations?

What rendered the frequent use of the ablative absolute, so necessary among the Latins?

From what Greek word is *gaudeo* derived: and what part of the verb illustrates this derivation best? Can you confirm it by the derivation of *terripudium*, and on whose authority?

On what principle can you account for the difference in the quantity of *e*, in the following words: docerem and legerem; docere and legere?

The difference between *Fanum* and *sacellum*; *ara* and *altare*, *forte* and *forsan*?

HORACE AND VIRGIL.

What does Horace mean by *Saturnius numerus*?

What early Greek Tragedian does Horace uniformly omit mentioning?

Were the Plays of Thespis written, or extemporaneous? What was Horace's opinion, and how do you prove it?

What ages were included under the terms *pueritia*, *adolescentia*, *juventus*, *seniores*, *senectus*?

Why does Horace apply the epithet *resonantis* to Albunea?

Purpurei metuunt tyranni. Do you know any modern poet that has used this epithet?

What was Hydaspes, and what do you think Horace means by "*fabulosus Hydaspes*?"

What apparently contradictory mean-

ings has *impotens*, and how can you account for this? Do the same with *sacer*.

Translate, *Magnus haud scio an maximus*.

What do you mean by *Phæacum abscondimus* arces?

"*Et conam insignis galeæ cristas que comantes*." What are the corresponding Greek words?

Syllaba longa brevi subjecta vocatur Iambus. Pes citus unde etiam trimetris accrescere jubet nomen Iambeis cum senos rederet ictus. Translate and explain *unde*: and tell what two names for the kind of verse are by this accounted for?

Translate in its different meanings, *Ut jam nunc dicat jam nunc debentia dici pleraque differat et præsens in tempus omittat*. What faulty construction of the verse do you observe in the last line?

COMET OF 1823.

THIS Comet presented the remarkable phenomenon of having two tails, one turned towards the sun, and the other in a direction very nearly opposite. The one directed towards the sun, which was of a kind never before observed, was found to vary in length and brightness, being sometimes visible only very near the Comet, and at other times extending to a length equal to that of the ordinary tail. It was commonly much fainter than the usual one; and it disappeared before either the other tail, or the Comet itself became invisible.

GREAT STORM AND INUNDATION IN SWEDEN AND RUSSIA, IN NOVEMBER, 1824.

AT Stockholm, a storm arose, on the 18th of November, which tore the vessels from their moorings, and dashed them against each other; unroofed houses, and uprooted trees. At Udewalla, the sea rose with vast rapidity, eight feet above the greatest ordinary elevation. Ships were carried into the fields, nearly a mile from their moorings; and one of 150 tons was actually wrecked in the middle of a street. In Petersburg, the waters of the Neva rose so high, that the lamp posts were not visible: the houses were inundated to the height of ten feet, and all the wooden bridges, without exception, were swept away. The plates of white iron which covered the roofs of the houses, were rolled up like paper with the wind, and carried off. At Cronstadt, the sea rose fourteen feet, and did immense damage. In 1777, a like inundation took place, but the rise of the water was two feet less. Some suppose these dreadful effects to have been occasioned by the wind forcing the water up the rivers: others that they were produced by some subterraneous convulsion. Whatever may have been the cause, the visitation was dreadful in the extreme, and the loss of lives and property immense.

MANUSCRIPT OF HOMER.

THE celebrated manuscript upon Papyrus, of a portion of Homer's Iliad, belonging to W. J. Bankes, Esq. M. P. for Cambridge University, has lately been brought to England. The MS. was discovered in the island of Elephantina, in Upper Egypt, by a French gentleman

travelling for Mr. Bankes. It is written in what are termed Uncial Letters, of the most beautiful form, and may probably be ascribed to the age of the Ptolemies. Much curiosity is excited in the literary world for the unrolling of this invaluable curiosity; it being, by many centuries, the oldest classical writing in existence.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT, FOR MAY.

WE have enjoyed the pleasure of travelling through several parts of the counties of Down and Antrim, during the present month; and rejoicing as we do in the comforts of every living creature, our hearts have been making a perpetual offering of gratitude to "the Giver of all good." We would prescribe for all the sickly, and all the discontented, and all the evil-disposed of our species, a journey through the country, in this delightful weather; and if the freshness, the beauty, the happiness, the unbounded beneficence, everywhere displayed, do not pour health into the frame, and diffuse contentment and kindness through the heart, we are persuaded, that no human art can avail.

The prospects of the farmer are bright and promising, beyond precedent. Every thing is early, vigorous, and flourishing. The only apprehension which we entertain is for the *Wheats*. Should their present extreme luxuriance remain unchecked by a comparatively dry summer, they may fail to be either so healthy, or so productive as they promise at present. Should the kindness of Providence, however, be continued, and should He not see fit to chastise us for our follies and our crimes, "plenty will crown the harvest, and abundance gladden every heart."

We regret to observe, that the old and unprofitable system of *barren fallowing*, is still pursued, to a considerable extent. By this ruinous system, *two years' rent*, *two years' labour*, besides the expense of *manure*, are to be repaid by a *single crop*. Such a thing is unknown in England or Scotland. The process of fallowing is there carried on, whilst the manure and soil are producing a luxuriant crop of turnips, cabbages, or carrots, more than adequate to repay all expenses. Were our farmers to put their lime, and any other manure which they can spare, into drills, during the month of June, and to sow Aberdeen or Globe Turnip, they would have an abundant supply of most nutritious food for their cattle during the winter, and an astonishing increase of the best manure for the following season. The hoeing, weeding, and drilling of the turnips, during the summer, would effectually fallow the soil; and they could be removed sufficiently early to admit the sowing of wheat in due season. We would urge our Agricultural Friends to a trial of this plan; and we pledge ourselves, that they will not regret it.

Z.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Anecdotes of Lord Byron, fcap. 8vo. 6s.
Ballantyne's Novellist's Library, complete, 10 vol. royal 8vo. £14.

Bland's Key to Algebraic Problems, 8vo. 9s.

Campbell's Case of Mary, Queen of Scots, &c. 8vo.

Common-place Book of Epigrams, 4s.

Croly's Popery and the Popish Question, 8vo. 5s.

Crutwell on Currency, 8vo. 12s.

Daubeny's Supplement to the Protestant's Companion, 8vo. 6s. 6d.

Doubleday's "Babington," a Tragedy, 4s. 6d. sewed.

Drummond on the Origin of Empires, 8vo. £1 4s.

Evidence on the State of Ireland, 8vo. 12s.

Faustus, his Life, Death, and Descent into Hell, fcap. 8vo. 7s. 6d.

Graves (Dean) on Calvinistic Predetermination, 8vo. 12s.

Hovenden's Treatise on Frauds, 2 vol. royal 8vo. £2 12s. 6d.

Introduction to Dr. Parry's Posthumous Works, 8vo. 10s.

Jennings on the Dialects of the West of England, fcap. 8vo. 7s.

Joyce's Practical Chemical Mineralogy, 12mo. 7s. 6d.

Keating's Travels to St. Peter's River, 2 vols. 8vo. £1 8s.

Memorials of the Public Life and Character of the Right Honourable James Oswald, 8vo. 16s.

Rickard's Hymns for Private Devotion, 12mo, 3s. 6d.